

REMARKS

Claims 15-17 are allowed. Claims 7 and 8 are objected to.

Claims 1, 3, and 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo (US Patent 6,157,625). Applicants respectfully disagree. However, to clarify claim 1 and thus place this entire patent application in condition for allowance. Applicants have amended claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to state that "the first memory circuit stores less than an entire frame of audio data and wherein the second memory circuit stores less than the entire frame of audio data". Referring to the Specification of the present invention, page 6, lines 5-8 "by using two memory circuits 62 and 64 and avoiding the need to store an entire frame of audio data, the present invention can use smaller memory circuits than the prior art". This is a significant advantage. The present invention stores less than the entire frame of audio data in each of memories 62 and 64 and thus can utilize smaller and cheaper memory circuits. Kondo teaches switching between programs (see Kondo, Abstract "as a result, when the program to be transmitted is changed from one program to another, the signal switching means can be switched in such a manner that none of the audio signal packets that constitute those programs are lost). Kondo teaches switching for the purpose of switching between programs. Referring to FIG. 6, Kondo requires that A1 FIFO 13AA store all of the audio information for the corresponding video (stored in V1 FIFO 13VA), and that A2 FIFO 13AB store all of the audio information for the corresponding video (stored in V2 FIFO 13VB). Thus, Kondo does not teach splitting the audio information for the same video into two different memories. Kondo does not teach smaller memory circuits than the prior art. In fact, Kondo teaches duplicate FIFOs for both video and audio, thus increasing the amount of memory needed (i.e. a separate audio FIFO for each program). Thus, Kondo teaches away from the use of smaller memory circuits.

The dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as given for the independent claims.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully solicited. Please contact me if there are any issues regarding this communication or the current application.

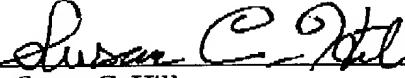
Respectfully submitted,

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Freescale Semiconductor, Inc.
Law Department

Customer Number: 23125

By:


Susan C. Hill
Attorney of Record
Reg. No.: 35,896
Telephone: (512) 996-6839
Fax No.: (512) 996-6854
Email: Susan.Hill@Freescale.com

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